(c) Steps taken to enhance export of these products include simplification of inspection procedures, removal of Minimum Export Price and quality restrictions on selected items, provisions of concessional credit, product development to meet international needs, extension of benefits available under the scheme of EOUs/EPZs to agriculture sector and permitting 50% sale in the domestic tariff area, assistance to exporters for improved packaging, strengthening of quality control, promoting export of identified products through brand promotion campaigns, arranging buyer-seller meets and participation in international fairs/exhibitions.

Proposal for Liberalisation of Tea Industry and Tea Export Policy

786. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for further liberalisation of the tea industry and tea export policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) A number of liberalisation measures have been taken by the Government in recent years. During the past two months the following steps have been taken to relax various controls on tea industry:—

(1) Provisions regarding issue of Shipment Licence have been reviewed by the Government and it has been declined that henceforth shipment licences will not be required by the exporters for each shipment. Necessary instructions have accordingly been issued by the Tea Board to the exporting community on 9th June, 1995.

(2) The provision of yearly renewal of exporter's licence for tea exports was replaced sometime ago by liberalised procedure whereby renewal of licence was ~nnired only after 3 years. This provision has been further liberalised and henceforth exporter's licence shall be issued by the Tea Board initially for 3 years to an exporter and if there is no default on the part of the exporter, it would be converted into a permanent licence. However, subsequently, if there is any default on the part of the exporter, he shall again be placed on a 3 year watch list or his licence may be revoked. Necessary amendments to Tea (Distribution & Export) Control Order in this regard were notified on 7th Jyly, 1995.

Liberalisation of various control orders is a continual process. Further liberalisation of various regulations governing the tea industry will be taken up as and when considered necessary.

Objectives of Eighth Five Year Plan

787. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the major objectives of the Eighth Plan and to what extent those objectives have been achieved so far;

(b) whether the laid down objectives of the plan will be achieved;

(c) when was the last NDC meeting held and when the next meeting of the NDC is likely to take place; and

(d) the reasons for not holding the NDC meetings on time and regularly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) and (b) The Eighth Five Year Plan accords priority to the following objectives;

(i) Generation of adequat employment to achieve near ful employment level by the turn c the century;

(ii) Containment of population growth through active people cooperation and an effecti

scheme of incentives and disincentives;

(iii) Universalisation of elementary education and complete eradication of illiteracy among the people in the age group of 1S to 35 years;

(iv) Provision of safe drinking water and primary health care facilities, including immunisation, accessible to all the villages and the entire population, and complete elimination of scavenging;

(v) Growth and diversification of agriculture to achieve self-sufficiency in food and generate surpluses for exports;

(vi) Strengthening the infrastructure (energy, transport, communication, irrigation) in order to support the growth process on a sustainable basis.

These objectives are targeted to be achieved by the end of the Plan period.

(c) and (d) Last NDC meeting was held on 18.09.1993. As and when important issues relating to development planning are to be discussed at national level, the NDC meeting is convened.

Constitution of Core Group to Suggest Changes in exim Policy

788. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAMNATH KOVIND:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be eased to state:

(a) whether Government have nstituted a core group of officials and hers to suggest changes needed in Exim icy to tackle operational problems dering export growth;

(b) the reasons for Government failing institute such a core group or any similar machinery to tackle ational problems hindering export the earlier despite suggestions and sentations made in this regard;

Production in BCCL

790. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BCCL is well ahead of ECL in production output per manshift and in the price of coal fetched from the consumers having less manpower;

(b) whether it is also a fact that loss suffered by BCCL is same as by ECL; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor giving detailed chart of expenditure on major items and showing factors neutralising better productivity of BCCL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) As per audited accounts for the year 1993-94 (accounts for 1994-95 have not yet finalised), the figures of production, output per manshift and average sale price of coal from BCCL and ECL are given below:

	ECL	BCCL
Production (million tonnes)	22.61	29.04
Manpower (No.)	171727	156576
Output per manshift (OMS) (tonnes)	0.59	0.90
Average sale price (Rs. per tonnes)	516.74	461.35

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Cost of production per tonnes of coal produced from ECL and BCCL mines under major heads is as follows:

(Rs./tonne)

	ECL	BCCL
Salaries & Wages	410.26	274.04
Stores	56.84	61.78
Power	56.05	38.80
Depreciation	68.54	41.81